# Delaware Shootings 2012 An Overview of Incidents, Suspects, and Victims in Delaware

September 2013



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# **Executive Summary**

### Overview

The following report is the second in a series examining criminal, non-accidental shooting incidents in Delaware that resulted in the injury or death of another person. This report focuses on multiple charactertistics of shooting incidents, victims injured as a result, and suspects involved.

The data presented in this report were obtained from Delaware's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). Complaint records filed by law enforcement agencies were downloaded from CJIS for 2012 then filtered and reviewed to identify incidents where a criminal, non-accidental discharge of a firearm resulted in the death or injury of one or more victims. Once all incidents had been identified, suspect and victim demographic information and arrest histories were downloaded and matched with incident information. Analyses were then conducted to examine characteristics of shooting incidents, victims, and suspects.

### **Key Findings**

In 2012, there were 196 criminal, non-accidental shooting incidents in Delaware that resulted in the injury or death of 228 individuals. More than 180 victims had non-fatal injuries and 43 died of their wounds. More than 275 individuals were suspected of involvement in the shooting incidents, with 136 suspects identified by name. As of August 2013, arrests had been made in 37.2 percent of all shooting incidents and 50 percent of homicide incidents.

More than half the incidents (51.5 percent) occurred in the City of Wilmington. More than 25 percent occurred in suburban New Castle County, with the remaining incidents split almost equally between Kent and Sussex Counties.

Most shooting victims (90.8 percent) were male. Blacks comprised the largest racial group of victims (84.2 percent overall and 85.5 percent of male victims). For the 133 incidents where demographic information was available for both victims and suspects, 88 percent involved victims and suspects who were all or predominantly of the same race.

Most victims and those suspects who had been identified by name had criminal histories in Delaware (89.5 percent and 96.1 percent respectively). Of those with a Delaware criminal history, most victims and suspects had at least one felony arrest (78.9 percent and 91.9 percent respectively). Most victims and identified suspects were juveniles at the time of their first Delaware arrest (78.4 percent and 78.9 percent respectively).

# **An Overview of Delaware Shootings in 2012**

The following report is the second in a series examining criminal, non-accidental shooting incidents in Delaware that resulted in the injury or death of another person. The first report covered 2011 and focused on multiple charactertistics of shooting incidents, victims injured as a result, suspects involved, and dispositions of shooting cases. Prior reports by the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) of the Delaware Criminal Justice Council focused exclusively on shootings in Wilmington, Delaware.

# Methodology

The data presented in this report were obtained from Delaware's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). First, complaint records filed by law enforcement agencies were downloaded from CJIS for 2012. After the initial download, these records went through multiple stages of filtering to identify incidents where a criminal, non-accidental discharge of a firearm resulted in the death or injury of one or more victims. Records were then reviewed individually to verify that every incident included at least one victim who was injured or killed by a firearm through criminal, non-accidental actions. Once all incidents had been identified, information about suspect and victim demographics and arrest histories was downloaded from CJIS and matched with incident information. Analyses were then conducted to examine characteristics of shooting incidents, victims, and suspects.

In late summer of 2013, the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) was granted access to more comprehensive complaint record data available in CJIS. Although this report was nearing completion at that time, the SAC elected to validate a sample of the shooting incidents it had identified against this expanded data. That validation work identified issues with the previously reviewed data (see the Considerations and Limitations section below for more detail), leading to a decision to validate all of the previous 2012 incident data against the more comprehensive data set. Because this validation process was time intensive, a decision was made to focus this report on fewer topics than were covered in the 2011 report. More specifically, the 2012 report does not cover dispositions of shooting incident cases and some incident characteristics (e.g., types of firearms used, nature of injuries, relationship between victim and offender).

### **Considerations and Limitations**

Criminal investigation of shooting cases, as is typical for many violent crimes, can be complex. In some situations, a case may be quickly and definitively closed through the clear identification and speedy arrest of a suspect. In many cases however, much time and effort is required to interview witnesses and victims, sort through and follow up on investigative leads, interview persons of interest and possible suspects, and finally build a case that leads to the issuance of a warrant and eventually to an arrest. Much information can be generated during the course of the investigation and old information can change, particularly as the investigation moves through its early stages. In other cases, an investigation may reveal little information – there may be no witnesses to the incident, the victim may not be able to provide information helpful to the investigation, or, in some situations, the victim may refuse to cooperate with the investigation.

In cases that generate much investigative information, law enforcement agencies must update case complaint records often, introducing numerous opportunities to generate incorrect, missing, or mistakenly entered data and generating a large amount of data for crime analysis review. In cases where an investigation generates little information, only limited data is available for analysis.

With access to the more comprehensive CJIS complaint record data, issues that would have resulted in an undercount of shootings using the limited data set became apparent. These issues included a substantial proportion of data missing from the primary CJIS data fields that note whether a gun was involved in a crime (52 percent were missing in the shooting incidents covered in this report), although this information could generally be found in one or more other text data fields that require more time and effort to review.

Other data issues in the complaint records submitted by law enforcement agencies, such as incorrectly labeled records, missing or inaccurate information in victim, suspect, and brief text fields, etc. also became evident. Together, the various data issues required extensive checking and rechecking of the data to arrive at the final counts presented in this report. Despite these quality control measures, it remains a possibility that this report undercounts shooting incidents that are the focus of this report, although likely to only a very minor degree.

Note that this report does not address accidental shooting incidents (of one's self or another), intentional self-inflicted shooting incidents, or shooting incidents determined by law enforcement investigation to be justified (e.g., self-defense).

## **Shooting Incidents, Victims, and Suspects**

This study identified 196 shooting incidents reported to Delaware's police agencies in 2012 that resulted in the injury or death of 228 victims. The total numbers of incidents, victims, and suspects for 2012 are shown in Table 1. These totals reflect only criminal, non-accidental shootings of another person.

Wilmington accounted for 51.5 percent of all 2012 shooting incidents and slightly more than half of all shooting victims (122 victims or 53.5 percent). Suburban New Castle County accounted for 54 (27.6 percent) shooting incidents and 26.8 percent of victims. Overall, 155 of the shooting incidents (79.1 percent) reported in Delaware in 2012 occurred in New Castle County resulting in 183 (80.3 percent) shooting victims. Kent and Sussex counties accounted for 20 (10.2 percent) and 21 (10.7 percent) shooting incidents respectively, and 21 (9.2 percent) and 24 (10.5 percent) victims. Figures 1 and 2 on page 4 provide more information about the locations of the 2012 shooting incidents.

A review of police complaint records shows that at least 278 suspects were involved in the 196 shooting incidents shown in Table 1. As of August 2013, 136 (48.9 percent) of the 278 suspected shooters had been identified by name. Arrests had been made in 73 incidents (37.3 percent) resulting in 117 individual arrests.

### **Note to the Reader About Suspect Counts**

The *actual* number of suspects involved in the 196 shooting incidents cannot be determined as of the date of this report. A number of factors affect the suspect numbers derived from CJIS, including:

- The number of suspects involved in an incident may not be known or revealed to police.
- Substantial differences in victim and witness accounts of suspect information.
- In incidents where multiple suspects are identified by name or arrested, determination of who discharged a weapon or otherwise materially participated in the incident (e.g., aided in an attempt to rob a victim) may not be resolved for some time.
- In many incidents, general information about suspects (such as their number, general physical descriptions, and age range) is clear, but their identities remain unknown even after extensive investigation.
- In some cases, a victim may have engaged in criminal behavior during the incident.

Each of these factors requires a different response when recording information in the complaint record and these factors can lead to an over- or under-count of suspects involved in the incident. SAC staff reviewed individual complaint records to make appropriate adjustments to the suspects count. However, it is likely that the number of suspects reported in this study undercounts the actual number of offenders who participated in the incidents.

Table 1: Incidents, Victims, and Suspects by County

Shootings in 2012 by Reporting Agency								
			Suspects					
County	Agency	Incidents	Victims	All Suspects	Identified by Name	Incidents with an Arrest (Individual Arrests)		
	Wilmington	101	122	144	58	32 (54)		
	Suburban New Castle County	54	61	75	38	20 (30)		
	New Castle County PD	38	43	52	25	12 (18)		
	Delaware State Police Trp. 2	6	8	7	2	1 (1)		
stle	Newark Police Dept.	3	3	3	3	3 (3)		
, Ca	Middletown Police Dept.	2	2	4	1	1 (1)		
New Castle	DSP Troop 1	1	1	1	0	0		
_	Elsmere Police Dept.	1	1	1	0	0		
	DSP Homicide Unit* (Statewide)	3	3	7	7	3 (7)		
	New Castle County Total	155	183	219	96	52 (84)		
	Dover Police Dept.	12	13	13	7	4 (5)		
	DSP Troop 3	5	5	9	6	3 (6)		
υţ	Smyrna Police Dept.	2	2	3	3	0		
Kent	DSP Homicide Unit* (Statewide)	1	1	1	1	1 (1)		
	Kent County Total	20	21	26	17	8 (12)		
	DSP Troop 4	7	8	11	6	4 (6)		
	DSP Troop 5	2	2	2	1	0		
	Milford Police Dept.	4	4	6	2	1 (1)		
×	Laurel Police Dept.	2	2	2	2	2 (2)		
Sussex	Millsboro Police Dept.	1	1	2	2	1 (2)		
	Seaford Police Dept.	3	4	7	7	3 (7)		
	DSP Homicide Unit* (Statewide)	2	3	3	3	2 (3)		
	Sussex County Total	21	24	33	23	13 (21)		
	Statewide Total	196	228	278	136	73 (117)		

<sup>\*</sup>Incidents involving a homicide committed within a Delaware State Police jurisdiction are transferred to DSP's statewide Homicide Unit.

Shooting incidents in 2012 that resulted in the death of a victim are shown in Table 2. Forty-three (18.9 percent) of the 228 victims succumbed to their injuries as a result of 40 separate incidents. Overall, 88.4 percent of the 43 fatal shooting victims were shot in New Castle County, one (2.3 percent) was shot in Kent County, and four (9.3 percent) in Sussex County. Wilmington alone accounted for 25 (58.1 percent) of all fatal shooting victims in Delaware in 2012.

As of August 2013, 38 (66.7 percent) of the at least 57 firearm homicide suspects had been identified by name, Delaware State Bureau of Identification (SBI) number and birth date. Arrests had made been in half of these incidents resulting in 34 individual arrests (59.7 percent of suspects). The remaining suspects remain unknown as of August.

**Table 2: Fatal Shootings by Reporting Agency** 

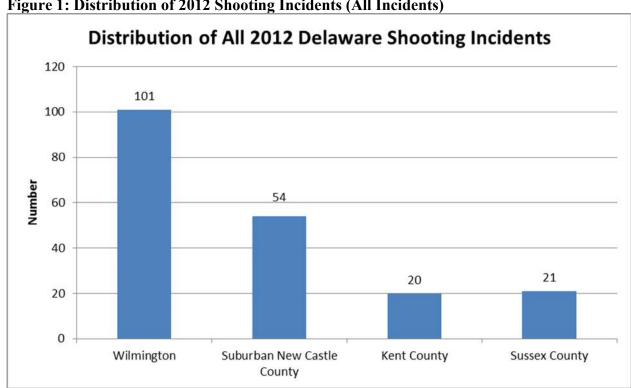
1 abie 2	Table 2: Fatal Shootings by Reporting Agency									
	Fatal Shootings in 2012 by Reporting Agency*									
					Suspec	ts				
						Incidents with				
County	Agency					an Arrest				
				All	Identified	(Individual				
		Incidents	Victims	Suspects	By Name	Arrests)				
	Wilmington	23	25	31	18	10 (15)				
<u>o</u>	Suburban New Castle County	13	13	21	16	7 (15)				
New Castle	New Castle County PD	10	10	14	9	4 (8)				
<u> </u>	DSP Homicide Unit**	3	3	7	7	3 (7)				
N N	(Statewide)									
	New Castle County Total	36	38	52	34	17 (30)				
	DSP Homicide Unit**	1	1	1	1	1 (1)				
Kent	(Statewide)									
	Kent County Total	1	1	1	1	1 (1)				
	Milford Police Dept.	1	1	1	0	0				
, sex	DSP Homicide Unit**	2	3	3	3	2 (3)				
Sussex	(Statewide)									
,	Sussex County Total	3	4	4	3	2 (3)				
	Statewide Total	40	43	57	38	20 (34)				

<sup>\*</sup>No homicides were reported to law enforcement agencies that solely serve Kent County.

**Note:** While this study did not examine the relationships between victims and offenders, information about firearm homicides committed in Delaware since 1996 that involved domestic and family violence can be found in the Delaware Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's *2013 Annual Report and Fatal Incident Review Team Report*, pages 29 and 32, available at:

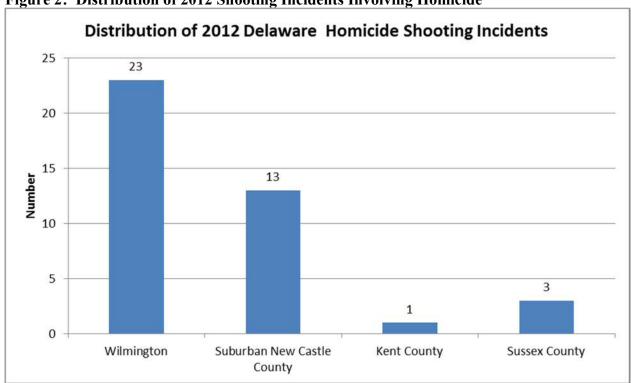
http://dvcc.delaware.gov/documents/2013AnnualReportFinal.pdf

<sup>\*\*</sup> Homicide incidents committed within a Delaware State Police jurisdiction are transferred to DSP's statewide Homicide Unit.



**Figure 1: Distribution of 2012 Shooting Incidents (All Incidents)** 





# **Demographic Profile of Shooting Suspects and Victims**

Race, sex, and age information for the 2012 shooting suspects where this information is known is shown in Table 3. As of August 2013, 159 (57.2 percent) of the 278 shooting suspects had been identified with sufficient confidence by race and sex. Of the suspects who had been so identified, they were predominantly male (95.0 percent) and more than 85 percent were 30 years old or younger with an average age of approximately 23.9 years. Black males comprised 85.5 percent of all suspects where race and gender were reported. Approximately 7 percent of the suspects in this table were also of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

**Table 3: Demographic Profile of 2012 Shooting Suspects** 

	Demographic Profile of 2012 Shooting Suspects (Sex, Race, and Gender all Knowi									
			Race, Ethnic	ity, and Sex						
		Race a	nd Sex		Ethnicity a	and Sex**	Total***			
Age		White	Black	White	Hispanic	Hispanic	Total			
Range	Black Male	Male	Female	Female	Male	Female				
Under 14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
14 to 17	20	2	0	0	1	0	22			
18 to 21	44	5	0	0	2	0	49			
22 to 25	34	1	1	3	1	0	39			
26 to 30	22	5	0	1	1	0	28			
31 to 35	7	1	0	1	1	0	9			
36 to 40	4	1	0	0	1	0	5			
41 to 45	3	0	2	0	0	0	5			
46 to 50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Over 50	2	0	0	0	0	0	2			
Average	23.5 24.2 36.7 26.8 25.5 NA									
Age										
Totals	136	15	3	5	11	0	159			

<sup>\*</sup>The figures in this table include 23 suspects for which only race, gender, and age information is known, but with confidence. The remaining suspects in the table are known by name as well.

While more than 40 percent of suspects remain unidentified, the larger patterns observed in the incident, victim, and suspect characteristics data, suggest that this group of suspects would be very similar in demographic characteristics to those in included in Table 3.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Race and Ethnicity are considered separate concepts for demographic purposes. In the 'Race and Sex' columns of this table, each category includes both Hispanic and non-Hispanic victims. In the 'Ethnicity and Sex' columns, all races are included. Therefore, if a person is Hispanic, he/she would be counted twice in this table – once each in the respective columns for race and ethnicity.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>The figures in this column are based on the race and sex columns, since suspects would otherwise be counted twice if they were Hispanic.

Demographic information for the 2012 shooting victims is shown in Table 4. Most victims (90.8 percent) were male. Overall, 77.6 percent of victims were between 18 and 35 years old with an average age of 27.1 years. Black males accounted for 77.6 percent of all shooting victims in 2012. Approximately 4 percent of victims were also of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

**Table 4: Demographic Profile of 2012 Shooting Victims** 

Demographic Profile of 2012 Shooting Victims										
			Race, Ethnic	ity, and Sex						
		Race a	nd Sex		Ethnicity	and Sex*	Total**			
		White	Black	White	Hispanic	Hispanic	Total			
Age Range	Black Male	Male	Female	Female	Male	Female				
Under 14	2	0	0	0	0	0	2			
14 to 17	17	0	1	0	0	0	18			
18 to 21	44	5	6	2	2	0	57			
22 to 25	39	6	3	1	3	0	49			
26 to 30	35	4	2	1	0	0	42			
31 to 35	22	4	1	1	0	0	28			
36 to 40	5	2	0	0	1	0	7			
41 to 45	5	1	1	0	1	0	7			
46 to 50	5	2	0	0	1	0	7			
Over 50	3	5	1	1	1	0	10			
Average Age	25.9 34.2 26.0 31.7 35.0 NA									
Totals	177	29	15	6	10	0	227***			

<sup>\*</sup>Race and Ethnicity are considered separate concepts for demographic purposes. In the 'Race and Sex' columns of this table, each category includes both Hispanic and non-Hispanic victims. In the 'Ethnicity and Sex' columns, all races are included. Therefore, if a person is Hispanic, he/she would be counted twice in this table – once each in the respective columns for race and ethnicity.

<sup>\*\*</sup>The figures in this column are based on the race and sex columns, since victims would otherwise be counted twice if they were Hispanic.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>The remaining victim not included in this table is a male whose race is 'Other.'

# **Demographic Profile of Shooting Incidents**

Since a number of shootings involved multiple suspects and/or multiple victims, comparing all victims with all suspects to understand the demographics of 2012 shooting incidents can be misleading. Instead, race and age data for the victims and suspects (where suspect characteristics were known with confidence) involved in each incident were examined and then condensed down so that each incident could be assigned to single categories for victim age, victim race, suspect age, and suspect race. Each victim-suspect category pair could then be compared and the incident categorized on the extent to which suspects and victims were similar to or different from each other based on each pairing.

Table 5 explores the relationship between suspect and victim race based on the categories assigned for each incident. Of the 133 incidents in 2012 where race information was available for both suspects and victims, 117 (88.0 percent) involved suspects and victims who were all or mostly of the same race. This percentage was notably higher for incidents that involved Black victims (96.4 percent of 112 incidents) and markedly lower for incidents involving White victims (42.9 percent of 21 incidents).

**Table 5: Correlation between Victim and Suspect Race** 

Tuble et collection between						
	Victim Race Category Assigned to Incident					
	Bla	nck	Wh	nite	Overall	
		Percent of		Percent of		
	Number	Row Total	Number	Row Total	Number	
ALL Suspects and ALL Victims of	100	93.5%	7	6.5%	107	
Same Race						
MAJORITY of Victims and of	8	80.0%	2	20.0%	10	
Suspects BOTH of Same Race						
Victims Shot by Suspects of	4	25.0%	12	75.0%	16	
OPPOSITE Race						
Total	112		21		133	

Table 6 explores the relationship between suspect and victim age based on the categories assigned for each incident. In 98 incidents, age information was available for both suspects and victims. One of five broad age categories was then assigned to victims in an incident if at least a majority belonged to the same age group. This same process was repeated for the suspects in each incident. In 82 incidents, each victim and suspect group could be assigned an age category and were then compared (for 16 incidents there was no majority age group). In the incidents where victim and suspect age categories could be compared, 54.9 percent of shooting incidents involved suspects and victims who were within the same age range (indicated by the shaded boxes in the table). This proportion was highest for incidents involving victims age 18 to 30 years (79.6 percent). For the three oldest age groups, most incidents involved victims shot by younger suspects. Overall, 64 of the 82 incidents examined (78.1 percent) involved suspects in the age 18 to 30 group.

Table 6: Victim-Suspect Age Correlation by Incident level

able 6. Victim-Suspect Age Correlation by Incident level								
		Victim Age Category Assigned to Incident						
		Under 18	18-30	31-40	41-50	Over 50	Suspect Category Totals	
	Under 18	4	4	0	1	0	9	
Suspect Age Category	18-30	4	39	8	8	5	64	
Assigned to	31-40	0	4	1	0	1	6	
Incident	41-50	0	2	0	0	0	2	
	Over 50	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Victim Category Totals		8	49	9	9	7	82	

# **Criminal Histories of Shooting Suspects and Victims**

Table 7 summarizes the Delaware criminal arrest histories for shooting suspects and victims. Most of the 128 identified/arrested suspects (96.1 percent) and 228 shooting victims (89.5 percent) had an arrest history in Delaware. Of those with such arrest histories, 113 suspects (91.9 percent) and 161 victims (78.9 percent) had at least one felony arrest.

Around half of the suspects and victims with felony arrests had been arrested for a felony drug offense. However, nearly 70 percent of victims in this group had three or more arrests for these offenses compared to about one-fourth of suspects in the group. The difference between victims and suspects was somewhat greater for non-violent, non-drug-related felony arrests (termed 'other felony'). Three-fourths of suspects and two-thirds of victims with a felony arrest had at least one 'other felony' arrest. Among those with an arrest in this category, substantially more victims than suspects had three or more arrests for such charges.

**Table 7: Suspect and Victim Delaware Criminal Histories** 

Delaware Criminal Histories	for Shooting Vict	tims and Suspec	ts Identified b	y Name		
Criminal History	Identified (Unique Ir	Suspects ndividuals)	Vict	Victims		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Known Suspects and Victims	128		228			
Have Arrest History in Delaware	123	96.1%	204	89.5%		
≥1 Arrest was for a Felony*	113	91.9%	161	78.9%		
Felony Drug Arrests	62	50.4%	105	51.5%		
1 or 2 Arrests	47	75.8%	33	31.4%		
3 Arrests of More	15	24.2%	72	68.6%		
Felony Weapons Arrests	94	76.4%	98	48.0%		
1 or 2 Arrests	73	77.7%	50	51.0%		
3 Arrests of More	21	22.3%	48	49.0%		
Other Felony Arrests	93	75.6%	136	66.7%		
1 or 2 Arrests	49	52.7%	41	30.1%		
3 Arrests of More	44	47.3%	95	69.9%		
Violent Felony Arrests**	110	89.4%	151	74.0%		
1 or 2 Arrests	35	31.8%	29	19.2%		
3 Arrests of More	75	68.2%	122	80.8%		

<sup>\*</sup>Felony percentages are of those with an arrest history.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Violent felonies included in this table are those defined in Title 11, §4201c of the Delaware Code.

The percentage of suspects with arrests for felony weapons offenses was about 50 percent higher compared to this percentage for victims. The percent of victims with three or more arrests for weapons felonies was more than double that for suspects (49 percent versus 22.3 percent). When examining arrests for all violent felony offenses (as defined in Title 11, §4201c of the Delaware Code, which includes certain drug and weapons felonies), 89.8 percent of suspects and 74.0 percent of victims with a felony arrest history had at least one arrest for a violent felony. The majority of each group had three or more arrests for violent felony offenses.

Table 8 compares the age at first contact with the Delaware criminal justice system for the shooting suspects and victims who had criminal histories prior to the shooting incident. The table shows that 78.9 percent of the 123 identified shooting suspects in 2012 with histories and 78.4 percent of shooting victims with histories were younger than age 18 at the time of their first arrest in Delaware.

Table 8: Age at First Contact with Delaware's Criminal Justice System

_	Age of Suspects and Victims with Delaware Arrest Histories at First Contact with Delaware's Criminal Justice System									
Age Range	Known S	Suspects	Vict	tims						
Age Nange	Number	Percent	Number	Percent						
Under 14	52	42.3%	79	38.7%						
14 to 17	45	36.6%	81	39.7%						
18 to 21	14	11.4%	23	11.3%						
22 to 25	5	4.1%	9	4.4%						
26 to 30	4	3.3%	1	0.5%						
31 to 35	2	1.6%	4	2.0%						
36 to 40	0	0.0%	3	1.5%						
41 to 45	1	0.8%	2	1.0%						
46 to 50	0	0.0%	1	0.5%						
Over 50	0	0.0%	1	0.5%						
Total with a Delaware History	123		204							

# Day and Time Analysis of 2012 Shootings in Delaware

Table 9 shows the distribution of 2012 shooting incidents by the day of the week and the month in which they occurred. Shooting incidents most frequently occurred on a Saturday (36 incidents) and least often on a Thursday (19 incidents). More shooting incidents occurred in September and May (22 and 20 incidents) with the fewest occurring in December (11).

Table 9: 2012 Shooting Incidents by Month and Day of Week

								Month
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	2	2	1	2	0	3	6	16
February	2	1	4	2	2	0	3	14
March	0	4	1	4	2	2	1	14
April	5	4	1	0	3	0	7	20
May	3	2	1	0	5	1	2	14
June	3	1	2	3	1	5	3	18
July	4	2	2	2	0	3	2	15
August	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	19
September	2	2	5	6	0	2	5	22
October	2	2	4	5	1	0	3	17
November	4	3	2	2	2	3	0	16
December	2	5	0	2	0	0	2	11
Day Total	32	31	26	30	19	22	36	196

Figure 3 shows the distribution of 2012 shooting incidents by the period of the day in which they occurred. More than half of all incidents statewide occurred between 5:00 pm and Midnight, with fewer than 10 incidents occurring between 6:00 am and Noon. For incidents which occurred between 6:00 am and 9:00 pm, 63 percent occurred in Wilmington. However, Wilmington accounted for only 41.4 percent of incidents which occurred between 9:00 pm and 6:00 am.

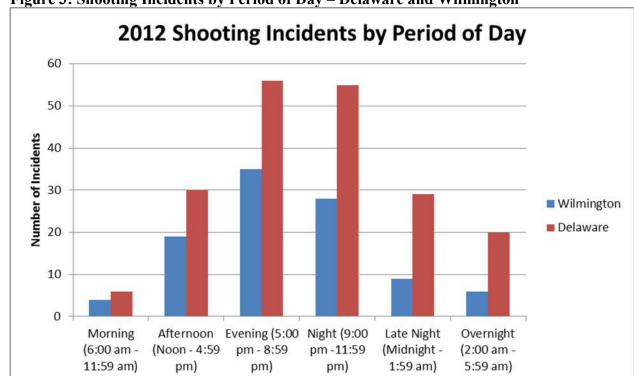


Figure 3: Shooting Incidents by Period of Day – Delaware and Wilmington\*

<sup>\*</sup>Delaware totals include the City of Wilmington.

### Conclusion

In 2012, there were nearly 200 criminal, non-accidental shooting incidents in Delaware that resulted in injury or death of another person. More than half the incidents (51.5 percent) occurred in the City of Wilmington, with another 27 percent occurring in suburban New Castle County. More than 180 individuals had non-fatal injuries as a result of these incidents and 43 died of their wounds. More than 275 individuals were suspected of involvement in the shooting incidents, with 136 suspects identified by name. As of August 2013, arrests had been made in 37.2 percent of all shooting incidents and 50 percent of homicide incidents.

Most shooting victims (90.8 percent) were male, with and Blacks comprising the largest racial group of victims (84.2 percent of all victims and 85.5 percent of male victims). For the 133 incidents where demographic information was available for both victims and suspects, 88 percent involved victims and suspects who were predominantly of the same race.

A high percentage of both victims and identified suspects had criminal histories in Delaware (89.5 percent and 96.1 percent respectively). Of those with a Delaware arrest history, 78.9 percent of victims and 91.9 percent of identified suspects had at least one felony arrest. Most victims and identified suspects were juveniles at the time of their first Delaware arrest (78.4 percent and 78.9 percent respectively).